

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims, as provided below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. [Currently Amended] An endoscope comprising: a sheath ~~provided with a distal, an articulation section adjacent attached to the a distal end of said sheath, a distal tip of said endoscope attached to a distal end of said articulation section,~~ and two or more separate optical channels that produce two or more distinct views, each of said optical channels comprising an objective lens, located at a distal end of said respective optical channel and a means of capturing and/or viewing the image; wherein the objective lens ~~or lenses of said two or more of the~~ separate optical ~~channels~~ channel, which ~~produce~~ produces the first of said distinct views is located at a first location, ~~which is said first location~~ located on said distal tip, and the objective lens ~~or lenses of said two or more separate of the~~ optical ~~channels~~ channel, which ~~produce~~ produces the second of said distinct views is located at a second location, ~~which is said second location~~ located either on a proximal end of said articulation section or on the sheath of said endoscope ~~adjacent to or located proximally of said articulation section;~~ wherein the distance between said first location and said second location, measured along the longitudinal axis of said endoscope, is fixed.
2. [Previously Presented] An endoscope according to claim 1, in which each of the distinct multiple views is selected from the group comprising: a monocular view, produced by a single optical channel; a binocular view, produced by two optical channels; and a stereoscopic view, produced by two optical channels.
3. [Currently Amended] An endoscope according to claim 1, in which the components of the optical channels and ~~the a~~ display apparatus are chosen such that said endoscope can

operate in either the visible, ultraviolet, infrared, or x-ray portions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

4. [Previously Presented] An endoscope according to claim 1, in which the objective lens has a focal length selected from the group comprising: fixed focal length, multiple focal lengths, or variable focal lengths.
5. [Previously Presented] An endoscope according to claim 1, in which each of the distinct views is at an angle of between 0 and 180 degrees with respect to the mechanical axis of said endoscope.
6. [Previously Presented] An endoscope according to claim 1, in which the field of view of each of the optical channels has an angular view of up to 180 degrees or more.

CLAIMS 7 to 10 [Cancelled]

11. [Previously Presented] An endoscope according to claim 1, further comprising a stapling device, said stapling device comprising a staple-firing portion and an anvil portion, wherein one of said portions is located at the first location and the second of said portions is located at the second location.
12. [Currently Amended] An endoscope according to claim 1, wherein the means for capturing or viewing the image comprise one or more of the following elements:
 - (a) an optical relay system;
 - (b) an ~~ocular~~ ocular; and
 - (c) a coupling lens suitable to deliver the image acquired by the objective lens to an image sensor and display apparatus.

13. [Previously Presented] An endoscope according to claim 12, in which the ocular and the coupling lens have a focal length selected from the group comprising: fixed focal length, multiple focal lengths, or variable focal lengths.
14. [Currently Amended] An endoscope according to claim 12 comprising an image sensor and a display apparatus, in which wherein at least two of the two or more distinct views are displayed simultaneously on the display apparatus.
15. [Previously Presented] An endoscope according to claim 1, in which the field of view of the optical channels is circular.
16. [Previously Presented] An endoscope according to claim 1, in which the field of view of the optical channels is rectangular.